Representation from the President of the Tappers' Association.

55. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether any request or representation was received by the Diwan from the President of the Tappers' Association, Kunnamkulam, for fixing up at least 2 days in the month of Karkadagam for issuing licenses to sweet toddy tappers; and, if so,

(b) what is the reply given to it;

(c) whether any similar request or representation was made to the Superintendent of Excise by the President of the Association; and, if so,

(d) what is the reply given to it, and whether a copy of it shall be placed on the table?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—(a) Yes.

(b) A copy of the order is appended. (*Vide Apppendix I.*)

(c) Yes.

(d) Copy of the reply is appended. (*Vide Appendix II.*)

The Chief Engineer's tour to Calcutta.

56. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether sanction has been accorded to the Chief Engineer to go to Calcutta in connection with the Mattancheri Water Scheme; and if so, the reason for same with the sanctioned expenditure?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Yes. The object of the journey was for conducting trials of the water barge which was being built for the Government by Messrs. 'The Hooghly Docking and Engineering Co.' The travelling allowance, which was the only expenditure incurred in this connection, was Rs. 672—10—0.

Well-boring in Trichur.

57. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) the special circumstances which led to the employment of Sirkar servants for boring a well or tank in the private house of a gentleman near Naickanal in Trichur;

(b) the name of the owner of the compound;

(c) whether there were no suitable public places wherein the experiment could have been conducted;

(d) what are the terms under which the Government has entered upon the land?

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Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) Scarcity of water in Trichur during summer presented a problem. It was thought desirable to try boring operations for its solution. The site in question definitely showed features which were favourable for successful boring. It was, therefore, thought advisable to exploit it so as to get a knowledge of the sub-soil water in the town.

(b) Mr. K. Narayana Pisharodi.

(c) The existence of a site under the control of the Government which is equally or more suitable than the one in question is not known.

(d) The owner to pay the cost of boring operations.

58 **Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.**—Will the Government be pleased to state the conditions under which boring operations are done with the Government boring machine in Mr. Kattur Krishna Pisharodi's compound near Naicknal, Trichur, and what amount has the Government hitherto spent under various items of expenditure for the same?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Conditions :—

(1) The actual working expenses to be borne by the owner of the house.

(2) The services of the plant and of the machines to be given free by the Government.

In respect of item(1) the expenditure amounts to Rs. 569-7-5.

In respect of item (2) the Government had not to incur any additional expenditure, since the staff consisted only of full-timed officers. This was, nevertheless, a concession granted by the Government, as it was thought that the knowledge gained from the boring operations on the characteristics of the sub soil water in Trichur would justify it. There was no known well or tank or place in Trichur Town which presented prospects for a successful boring as the place in question.

Water stored for Kole cultivation.

59. **Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.**—Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(a) (i) the names of the various centres where water was kept in storage for *kole* cultivation in the year 1102 at Government expense;

(ii) the amount spent at each centre;

(b) what was the report submitted by the responsible officials of each centre about the feasibility or otherwise of the water storage scheme?

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